

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 15 and 20-23, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the  
Application:

**Claims 1-13 (cancelled)**

**Claim 14 (previously presented):** A thin layer material consisting essentially of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than  $8 \text{ gm/cm}^3$ .

**Claim 15 (currently amended):** A stack of thin layers, ~~comprising~~ said stack including at least one layer consisting essentially of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than  $8 \text{ gm/cm}^3$ .

**Claim 16 (previously presented):** The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the stack comprises at least one layer of another material formed on a surface of the amorphous hafnium oxide layer.

**Claim 17 (previously presented):** The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said another material comprises silicon oxide.

**Claim 18 (previously presented):** The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the stack comprises alternate layers of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than  $8 \text{ gm/cm}^3$  and another material.

**Claim 19 (previously presented):** The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said another material comprises silicon oxide.

**Claim 20 (currently amended):** An optical component having on at least one surface at least one layer consisting essentially of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than  $8 \text{ gm/cm}^3$ .

**Claim 21 (currently amended):** The optical component as claimed in Claim 20, and comprising a stack of said thin layers of amorphous hafnium oxide.

**Claim 22 (currently amended):** The optical component as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the stack comprises alternate layers of said layers of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than  $8 \text{ gm/cm}^3$  and layers of another material.

**Claim 23 (previously presented):** The optical component as claimed in Claim 22, where said another material comprises silicon oxide.

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